

The Bird's Eye

Inside this issue:

Law Officials Warn Students About Drugs and Internet

By: Aleigha Dobbs

Local law enforcement officers visited Southwestern High School on Monday, Nov. 24, to speak to students about dangers related to drug and internet use. In the MPR, Sheriff Deputy Mike Ringhausen of Jersey County spoke about the dangers of drug abuse. In his presentation, he first encouraged students to realize that drugs can ruin their lives and that he witnesses it every day as he watches drug addicts go to prison and have their children taken away from them.

He was very straight-forward in telling students that no matter what someone else says "drugs are dangerous and they are addictive." After students listened to Mr. Ringhausen speak, they watched videos that told stories of recovering drug addicts and how drugs destroyed their families.

In the gym, Illinois State Police Sergeant Jeff Yenchko discussed internet safety and cell phone laws. He advised that students need to be aware of pictures they post online or send from their cell phones. Sgt. Yenchko explained how an internet predator can find out details from photos which makes it easier to locate a person. He warned students that texts and pictures can be used as evidence in court.

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Photo by Mrs. Gnetter

Sgt. Yenchko speaks to students about internet safety.

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Photo by Breanna Fowler

Senior Ailee Manns donates a toy in the Toys-for-Tots display in the office.

By: Meghan Pomeroy
Southwestern community himself and Christmas brings the annual U.S. Marine Toys-For-Tots program to give toys to the less fortunate children in the area. Sgt. Yenchko explained how an internet predator can find out details from photos which makes it easier to locate a person.

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Seniors: How Do You Plan to Pay for College?

By: Jamie Brockway

Many students are starting to realize that as first semester wraps up...college is drawing nearer. That means applications, scholarships, and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms must be filled out ASAP. Ms. Debbie Ballard, guidance counselor, is urging students to apply for FAFSA even if they aren't planning to attend college. "If students change their minds in May about going to college, their financial aid forms are already completed," explained Ms. Ballard.

Ms. Ballard gave the following tips about the FAFSA process: When applying for financial aid in December students and parents must apply for a personal income number (PIN). Students and parents should complete the FAFSA in January. Once the FAFSA is filed, students can apply for federal grant and state loan programs if needed. For state scholarships, the financial aid can be automatic when the application is turned in or you may have to fill out a separate application. Since every college is different, students must see how their college of interest processes the application.

Construction Class Revamps Courtyard

By: Jamie Brockway

When looking for scholarships, students can go into the office to pick up applications or visit websites such as Fast Web, Peterson's scholarship website, or scholarships.com. Most local scholarship deadlines are in March. Seniors should visit Mr. Buttitta's Construction I class and the district's maintenance department.

Mr. Buttitta said that the plan is for the presabirds get high school and click on Guidance Dept. to find scholarships. Ms. Ballard commented, "Mrs. Metz does a great job of updating the list of scholarships online. Seniors need to be aware of deadlines and get applications submitted ahead of time."

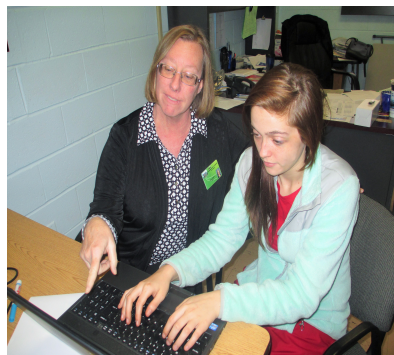
The first step is rebuilding a sidewalk between the central courtyard slab, and the sidewalk that comes from the south end of the buildings," commented Mr. Buttitta.

Seniors Jaikob Waters, Zach Bachman, Cole Pruitt, Dakota Duvall, Andrew Hoxie, Dakota Duvall, and juniors Jack Turner and Abby Mueller are working on the project.

"No one is really in charge. There are seven students in the class and their tasks change as the project develops," stated Mr. Buttitta.

Mr. Buttitta said that the project has been funded by the school district and it will cost about \$800.

Because of cold and wet weather, the project is on hold right now but the class plans to start again once the



Ms. Ballard helps senior Kristen Moore apply for FAFSA

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Mr. Buttitta's Construction I students are remodeling the courtyard.

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Photo Contest Winners

Announced by Thornton



Dan Thornton congratulates winners (l to r) Leanna Fones, Ailee Manns, and Maggie Burton.

By: Kristen Doerr

Mrs. Susan Ruyle's 3rd hour photography class participated in a contest sponsored by Thornton photography. The students were asked to submit their photos and be as creative as they liked, but there was one requirement: the subject had to be the Goldenrod Showboat.

Of the works submitted, the top three photographs were recognized. Senior Ailee Manns was awarded third place for her picture, "Life Lies Within" and received a \$20 prize. Second place was awarded to junior Maggie Burton for her picture "The Highlight of the Show" and she received \$30. The grand prize of \$50 was awarded to senior Leanna Fones for her portrait "Pianama" which is French for piano and soul.

Fones said that she believed "the piano and the music was the soul of the ship." The contest was created to commemorate former Southwestern teacher Don Buscher who taught at the high school for 33 years and was a common fixture at Southwestern until he passed away suddenly, two springs ago.

Mr. Buscher was the sponsor of a photography class at SHS when local photographer, Mr. Daniel Thornton, attended high school. Mr. Thornton credits Mr. Buscher as being one of the reasons he was inspired to make a career out of photography.

Mr. Thornton returned Thursday, Dec. 11, to announce the results of the contest and explained to the class, "We wanted to do an annual photo contest" in order to "keep his (Mr. Buscher) spirit alive."

Officer Mathis Offers Winter Driving Tips

By: Sarah DuPont and Ailee Manns
Southwestern's school is preparing for the winter that is predicted for this year. Every year, Officer Mathis along with the Principal Mark Bearley and Dean of Students Peg Mitchell take precautions to keep students safe on the roads.

When the weather is hazardous, Mr. Bearley will let student drivers out early to clean off their cars. He along with Officer Mathis and Mrs. Mitchell will help students scrape off their windshields and make sure everyone leaves safely.

Officer Mathis gave students some tips on how to prepare their vehicles for hazardous driving conditions. He explained that it is always good to check tires, have a full tank of gas, and have an emergency kit in the vehicle. Emergency kits should contain: charged cell phone, first aid kit, reflector triangles, jumper cables, flashlight, extra batteries, gloves, shovel, kitty litter, and ice scraper.

He also advised that students should put weight in the back of their vehicles if they have a two wheel drive truck.

If a person is caught in extreme weather and his/her car won't start, Mathis suggested that it is wise to keep candles and a thermal blanket in the vehicle to keep warm.

Since Southwestern is located in a rural area, back roads can be dangerous.

Many students live on the back roads and it is even more of a hazard in the winter.

Avoid them at all costs but if you do live back there it is wise to give the crew's time to clean off the roads.

For many people this is their favorite time of the year because it is deer season, mentioned Officer Mathis.

Archery season runs Oct. 1 - Jan. 18 except archery hunting is closed for the two firearm seasons.

Muzzleloader season is Dec. 12-14. The first firearm season was held on Nov. 21-23. The second season ran Dec. 4-7. The last dates for the firearm is Jan. 16-18. During firearm season a hunter can only shoot one doe and one buck.

Senior Aaron Hand, who shot a doe, stated, "The deer haven't been moving at all. The weather hasn't been cooperating."

Junior Malaki Nicolini agreed that the weather has been cold and windy and not many people have shot deer.



Photo by Breanna Fowler

Officer Mathis gives students tips about winter driving safety.

By: Sarah DuPont and Ailee Manns
Mr. Dan Mathis, Southwestern's school resource officer, is preparing for the rough winter that is predicted for this year. Every year, Officer Mathis along with the Principal Mark Bearley and Dean of Students Peg Mitchell take precautions to keep students safe on the roads.

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Senior Aaron Hand shot a 6-point buck with his shotgun during the first firearm season.

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Student Gov't Hosts "Night at the North Pole"

By: Breanna Fowler

Southwestern Student Government hosted a Night at the North Pole was held Friday, Dec. 11, 2015, in the MPR.

Children from ages 3-12 were invited to attend. The cost was \$5 per child. The children joined Santa and his elves for an evening of music, games, and cookies. The students enjoyed the movie *Elf*.

Student government dressed as elves or reindeer. Some wore ugly sweaters. Junior Kaeden Kessinger was Santa.

"There was a great turn out. We made over \$500 to donate to a family," commented Mrs. Borkowski.

"It was a fun event for the kids and they really got excited when they saw Santa," student government member Payton Heyen added.



Class of 2015 Votes Are Tallied... and the winners are:

Color: Black

Song: "Time of your life" by Green Day

Motto:

"Can't touch this"



Scheduling for Success Helps Students Plan for the Future

By: Ailee Manns and Sarah Dupont

Four years ago, the first Scheduling for Success event took place at Southwestern High School and it has now become an essential for 8th grade students and current students to plan for their futures. About half of the 8th grade class attended the event on Monday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. in the MPR. Principal Mark Bearley introduced Ms. Debbie Ballard, guidance counselor, who was the main presenter.

Ms. Ballard explained, "The purpose of this yearly event is to introduce the incoming freshmen to their scheduling options." She also stated that a teacher from every department in the high school was on hand to answer any questions about course offerings and how certain classes can help prepare students for future careers.

Ms. Ballard said that this night is beneficial to returning students to help them review graduation, college, work, and different courses.

"This event provides students and parents an opportunity to identify the courses and programs that are offered at the high school. For the students, it's a chance to see the options they have and to meet the teachers who will be helping them. It's a chance to get a head start on planning for the future," Ms. Ballard commented. Mr. Bearley, Principal, said that the event was a success and that the students were able to get a head start on planning for the future.

Freshmen of the more creative house gave "The Candy Cottage" to 8th grade students. The winner of the Traditional Themed was freshmen Haley Hallows called "Christmas Paradise", the winner of the pop culture was juniors Nathan Beilsmith, Samantha Cranmer, and senior Meghan Pohmeroy called "The Ebola Clinic", The Disney Theme winner was senior Megan Kirby and junior Evan Lewis with "Wandering Oaks Trading Post". The most Unique Theme winner was by sophomore Destiny Buck called "The Little White House Thing", and the Disaster theme winners were senior Tanner Dale and junior Kevin Cox called "Our Idea Failed".

Kirby stated, "It was a lot of fun and relaxing to make the gingerbread house. I really enjoyed this art club project because we got to eat it."



Mrs. Ruyle , art teacher, speaks to junior Cheyanne Brown about registering for art classes next year.

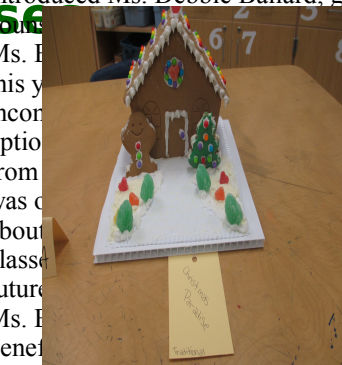
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Haley Hallows wins the traditional themed house with the "Christmas Paradise"



Destiny Buck creates the best Disney theme with "The Little White House Thing"



Mrs. Hasse, Spanish teacher, explains Spanish 4 requirements to juniors Samantha Brown and Grace Starrett.

By: Ailee Manns and Sarah Dupont

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Triston Murphy creates the "Candy Cottage"



Sports

Boys and Girls Basketball Begins with a Bang

By: Caylon Meyen

With much anticipation, the Piasa Birds girls and boys basketball teams began their season. Both girls and boys put up an impressive showing at their first game. The Birds began their season at the Metro-East Lutheran Thanksgiving Tournament in Duquoin, ended in a crushing victory for the Birds with a score of 70-44. The team found themselves holding the championship plaque on Monday, Dec. 1. Scoring was well rounded for the team with three players putting up double digits. In addition to junior Tyler Rose and sophomore Collin Baumgartner, senior Blake Lawrence was awarded Tournament MVP, and joined senior Blake Lawrence. The girls ended the first of two weekends in Pana 3-0 in the tournament. They returned on Friday Nov. 25, to face Central A&M, and Mattoon. After a three point loss to A&M, the Lady Birds finished the tournament with a win over Mattoon.

Juniors Kelsey Rhoades and Maddy Greeling were selected to represent the team. Coach Steve Wooley commented that it was a productive tournament. The boys team was back in action on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Carrollton, followed by their home opener against Dunker Inn on Thursday. Both games resulting in victories.

The Lady Birds easily defeated East Alton-Wood River at home on Monday, Dec. 1, and prepared the rest of the week for their match-up against the Vandalia Vandals at home on Saturday. The game resulted in their first conference win. Both teams look forward to their Christmas Tournaments. The boys will make their first showing at the Columbia Tournament in Freeburg, and the girls return yet again to compete at Jerseyville.



Boys varsity team pose around their newly acquired hardware after winning the championship game of the Metro-East Lutheran Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 29.



The cheerleading team also brought home a plaque from the Metro-East Lutheran Tournament for most school spirit and displaying the best attitude of all the squads

Football Team Finishes Season with Bang



By: Leah McGaughey

The football boys wrapped up their season with the annual football banquet. The banquet took place Monday, Dec. 1, in the middle school commons at 6 p.m.

The place was packed with all of the football players and their families. Junior Ryan Paslay commented, "There wasn't a chair left to sit in."

Everyone at the event enjoyed catering by the Brass Door and speeches summarizing the season. Head coach Aaron Fricke, his father Mark Fricke, and assistant coach Seth Rich all spoke.

All of the players were awarded with a certificate and the seniors were specially recognized with frames filled with pictures from the season.

Additional All-Conference awards were given to the following players: seniors Jaden Lindsay, Troy Wild, Andrew Fry, Dakota Duvall, Jacob Rich, Connor Robinson, Tanner Dunham, and Zach Bachman, and junior Jesse Arnold.

When asked how the season went, senior Tanner Dunham answered that statistically, "The season could have went better, but we made improvements. That's all that matters."

Dunham also added, "It was the best season so far."

Greeling Scores 1000th Point

"I think Maddy may reach her 1000 point against Pana," speculated Lisa Johnson, Maddy Greeling's mom, in a text to who she thought was Darren Greeling, Maddy's dad. In reality, she had accidentally sent the message to Maddy. On Nov. 22, the Piasa Birds girls basketball team was scheduled to play the Pana Panthers in Pana at their Thanksgiving tournament. Near the end of the game, team mates on the bench and fans in the stands anxiously watched

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Photo by: Riverbender.com
Junior Madison Greeling stands next to Coach Wooley.

Coach Wooley Reaches 400 Career Wins

Head girls basketball coach Steve Wooley recorded his 400 career win on Nov. 22, the same day Maddy Greeling scored her 1,000 point. Wooley played the first intermural basketball game in the fifth grade and continued to play through college where he attended North Florida and St. John's. He began his coaching career as a substitute coach at East Alton until after the game and that high school he was the assistant boys coach at Southwestern in 1989, working with Coach Darrell Burd. He continued to coach boys for 10 years at Southwestern and Alton. He made the transition to girls basketball when he realized that he wanted to coach his daughter. This is his 18 year as the Southwestern girls head basketball coach. At the beginning of the season Coach Brian Hanslow mentioned to Wooley that he was getting close to his 400 win, but it wasn't until a parent texted him on the way to the Pana game that he knew he could possibly reach that goal that night. Coach Wooley was also unaware that Greeling could score her 1,000 point. "I get caught up in the daily grind of practices and don't pay attention to the stats," Wooley commented.

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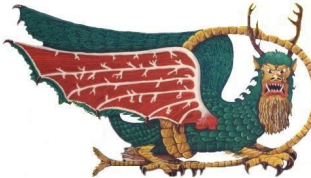


Ringhausen Signs with Lewis and Clark

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Photo by: Riverbender.com
Junior Madison Greeling stands next to Coach Wooley.

Coach Wooley Reaches 400 Career Wins

Head girls basketball coach Steve Wooley recorded his 400th career win on Nov. 22 of the same day Maddy Greeling scored her 1,000th point. Wooley played the first intermural basketball game in the fifth grade and continued to play through college where he attended North Florida and St. John's. He began his coaching career as a substitute coach at East Alton until after the game and that high school he was the assistant boys coach at Southwestern in 1989, working with Coach Darrell Burd. He continued to coach boys for 10 years at Southwestern and Alton.

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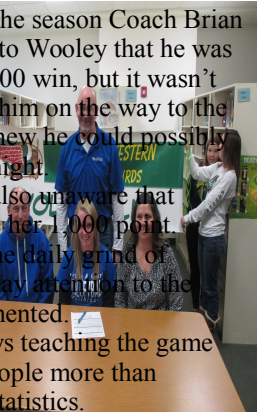


Ringhausen Signs with Lewis and Clark

This is his 18 year as the Southwestern girls head basketball coach. At the beginning of the season Coach Brian Hanslow mentioned to Wooley that he was getting close to his 400th win, but it wasn't until a parent texted him on the way to the Pana game that he knew he could possibly reach that goal that night. Coach Wooley was also unaware that Greeling could score her 1,000 point. "I get caught up in the daily grind of practices and don't pay attention to the stats," Wooley commented.

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He said that he enjoys teaching the game and working with people more than worrying about the statistics. This year, Wooley says that the team is physically quicker than the teams he usually coaches. They have "more offensive punch," and are as successful as he's coached. The best game so far this season in his eyes was the home match-up against Calhoun.

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Sports

Time To Put On Your Bowling Shoes

By: Karlie Green and Reagan Rinacke

After ending last season on a good note, the bowlers are prepared for the 2014-15 season. Mr. Ivan Mayhew is a first year coach, and Southwestern 2014 graduate Brian Heineman is the assistant coach. Volunteer coaches Patti Heineman and Elaine Grothaus resigned after last season.

This year's team consists of ten boys and six girls. The team practices at Bowl Haven in Alton from 4-6 p.m. two days a week and must drive themselves.

Juniors Erika Daube and Jewel Gaither are more than excited for the season. Both of them believe Alton is going to be tough to beat this year. Daube would like to get at least a score of 200 this season. Her personal best so far is 170.

"I think the team will start off slow but will gradually get better and finish with a winning record," stated Daube.

Coaches will expect leadership on the team from senior Tyler Mayhew, sophomore Alex Watts, Daube, and Gaither.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, the varsity bowling team faced Bethalto in their first match on Nov. 19th. Although they lost the first match of the season, it was an all-day event that tested the willpower of the team, and Southwestern A team finished strong with a third place plaque. The A team includes senior (captain) Darby Jones, juniors Brandon Thomas, Collin Walter, and Kaeden Kessinger, and freshman Jacob Simmons.

Jones stated that the duty she faces as captain is keeping the team in line and making sure they don't fall apart. The one dream she has as a captain is making sure she brings her team back to Nationals, and the only fear she has is "disappointing the coach."

Thomas commented that although they're all teammates and friends, a little competition is bound to happen because of what they all know. He continued "sometimes there will be arguing over what the correct answer is."

Simmons said that playing on the Varsity A team as a freshman "feels

good, and I'm happy to have the position. When I was first told, I was shocked."

Kessinger commented that he feels "we could have placed higher



Juniors Erika Daube (left) and Jewel Gaither look forward to a successful season.



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Varsity A team (front—l to r) Brandon Thomas and Darby Jones, (back l to r) Jacob Simmons, Kaeden Kessinger, and Collin Walter, played well.

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Volleyball Players Honored at Banquet

By: Karlie Green and Reagan Rinacke



Seniors (l to r) Caylin Beeman, Hannah Greeling, Payton Heyen, Ashlyn Ringhausen, and Meghan Peuterbaugh wrap up their careers.

The volleyball team ended their season with a 15-14-2 record.

Coach Julie Kinser and first year assistant coach Sue Long were pleased with how the season went. To celebrate a good year the volleyball banquet was held in the high school cafeteria at 6:30 on December 2. Fema's catered the meal.

Coach Kinser recapped the season and presented 12 varsity letters. She announced that senior Ashlyn Ringhausen and junior Maddy Greeling were named to the All-Conference team. Ringhausen named second team, and Greeling named third.

Sophomore Jenna Moore received her first varsity letter. Moore and freshman Delani Hopkins both said that they looked up to Ringhausen. Moore stated, "Ashlyn's very hardworking and I'll miss her!" As for Hopkins, she said, "Ashlyn made me better at peppering."

Senior Hannah Greeling stated, "I'm going to miss my teammates the most, we had a lot of ups and downs but throughout it all we got a lot closer."



Entertainment

Bree Gets Exclusive Interview with Santa

By Samantha Fowler

Q1. How are you preparing for this year?

A1. I've been checking the naughty and nice list, and have been on my daily diet which consist of 12 cookies and three 30 ounce glasses of milk for breakfast, plus one ham, a box of stuffing, a can of cranberry sauce, a 12 pack of Coke for lunch, an entire Christmas buffet for dinner, a baker's dozen of cookies for a snack, and salad to keep my "boyish" figure.



Q2. Where do you look forward to visiting the most?

A2. I'm really looking forward to visiting everyone. I love traveling everywhere, and seeing all the sites. As for my reindeer, they are most excited for the Piasa area, because there are so many deer. The boys get a lot of does' numbers except for poor Vixen, he's not the most attractive reindeer of the bunch.

Q3. What's your favorite cookie, and why?

A3. All of them of course! But if I had to choose one, it would be sugar cookies because they are sweet like me.

Q4. If you could choose one holiday to be involved in besides Christmas, what would it be?

A4. Presidents Day. Duh. I'd be an outstanding President. Santa Clause for President 2016.

Students Confess Christmas Favorites

"My favorite thing about Christmas is spending time with family."

-Sarah Dupont



"The best thing about Christmas is Christmas Brunch."
-Josh Nagel

"Stay fierce!"

Bird's Eye View Holiday Poll

Q1. Would you rather have a real or an artificial Christmas tree?

Real: 12
Artificial: 5
Mr. Fricke's Third Hour Class

Q2. Do you prefer wrapping paper or gift bags?

Wrapping Paper: 10
Gift Bags: 2
Mrs. Goetten's Second Hour Class



In The Halls

With Meghan

What's your favorite Christmas movie?

Chelsey Milligan—**Rudolph**

Josh Nagel—**The Day After Tomorrow**

Samantha Cranmer—**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

Kevin Cox—**The Gremlins**

Juliet Woolridge—**Rudolph**

Carley Link—**Elf**

Chris Breitweiser—**Santa Claus**

Chelsey Roettgers—**Rudolph**

Nathan Beilsmith—**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

Ryan Cox—**Charlie Brown Christmas**

Ailee Manns—**National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation**

Jenna McElyea—**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

Jimm Heron—**The Nightmare Before Christmas**

Aubrey Thornsby—

It's a Wonderful Life

Brittany Hand—**Happy Holidays from the Christmas Story**

Bird's Eye View Newspaper Staff

Door Decorating

SAS Door Decorating Contest Brings Out Holiday Spirit



1st place goes to Ms., Gaffney.



2nd place goes to Ms. Spencer.



3rd place goes to Ms. Ruyle.



Mrs. Goetten's SAS class gets into the holiday spirit.



Student Government sponsored the door decorating contest.



Mr. French's SAS class with their Christmas Wrecking Ball theme.



Mr. Durham's SAS class showed off their Christmas spirit.



Mrs. Oleson's SAS class got their idea from the movie Christmas Vacation.



Mrs. Goetten's SAS class created Frosty the Snowman.

Artist of the Month: Leanna Fones

By: Brittany Hand

This month Southwestern High School's artist of the month is Leanna Fones. She loves art, and has taken almost every art class available. She has experience in photography and ceramics, and next semester she will take her first class in Drawing II.

Fones said that she got her first set of paints at age three and has been painting ever since. Her stepfather inspired her from a young age to keep going even when she couldn't do something exactly how she wanted. Today, her favorite style is watercolor, which is the style she prefers for her own work.

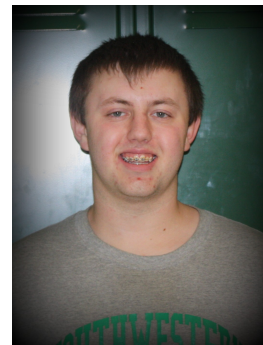
She explained that since she deals with chronic depression, she uses art to find that brings about beauty. She stated, "In a world so destructive, I want to create something beautiful." She aspires to become an art professor one day. "Never give up on your dreams like other artists."

She continued to say, "Don't compare yourself to other people, just do what you can possibly do."

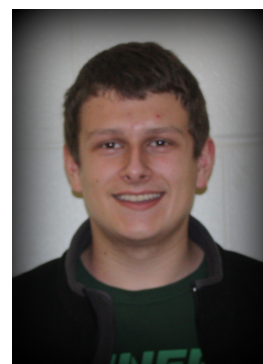


Senior Leanna Fones is delighted to be December's artist of the month.

SHS November Students of the month



Freshman Andrew Miller



Sophomore Ezekiel Wilfong



Junior Elizabeth Adcock



Senior Andrew Fry

Hats Off To Spanish Club For Giving Back



Rachel Baldwin (left) and Grace Luly help with hat and mitten tree.

By: Brittany Hand

This holiday season, Spanish Club has volunteered to be in charge of the annual hat and mitten tree. In the past, Mrs. Sinclair and the FCCLA organized it. Students can hang hats and mittens on the tree in the office and they will be distributed to the district elementary schools. The last day to donate is Dec. 17. Spanish club president Rachel Baldwin and vice president Grace Luly have worked with advisors Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hasse to organize this community service activity.

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The Bird's Eye View is published by Mrs. Goetten's Publications 1 class. The newspaper is available on www.piasabirds.net/highschool.

